

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01136 230304Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 OES-09
ACDA-12 /121 W
-----080758 230306Z /64/10

R 171105Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5752
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 1136

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2, LINE 11)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, LY, KN, KS
SUBJECT: JALUD'S TRIP TO NORTH KOREA

1. LIBYAN NUMBER TWO JALUD CONCLUDED HIS THREE DAY VISIT TO NORTH KOREA WITH THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF AGREEMENT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE LIBYAN-DPRK JOINT COMMITTEE. MINUTES DEALT WITH ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. A SECOND AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN CULTURE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPORTS WAS ALSO SIGNED BY NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER HO TAM AND LIBYAN HOUSING SECRETARY MUHAMMAD AL-MANQUSH. FURTHER DETAILS ON THESE AGREEMENTS UNAVAILABLE.

2. SOUTH KOREANS HERE DO NOT VIEW JALUD'S RECENT VISIT TO
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PYONGYANG AS PARTICULARLY OMINOUS. RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL NORTH KOREAN DELEGATIONS VISIT LIBYA TWO OR THREE TIMES ANNUALLY, AND JALUD'S VISIT VIEWED AS FULFILLING LONG-STANDING LIBYAN PROMISE TO RECIPROCATATE IN KIND. AS IT IS, SOUTH KOREA -- IN CONTRAST TO ITS NEIGHBOR -- IS RAPIDLY INCREASING ITS COMMERCIAL AND LABOR ACTIVITIES IN LIBYA AS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NOW HAS ITS

FOOT IN THE DOOR ON THE POLITICAL FRONT AS WELL. A SOUTH KOREAN CONSULATE GENERAL WAS OPENED EARLIER THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH THE KOREAN CONSUL RECENTLY COMPLAINED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT THE LIBYANS -- CONTRAY TO AN EARLIER UNDERSTANDING (BUT CERTAINLY NOT OUT OF CHARACTER) -- ARE NOW APPARENTLY WILLING TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW MISSION AT THE "CONSULATE" LEVEL ONLY.

3. COMMENT. THE TWO OMNIBUS AGREEMENTS APPEAR TO BE WINDOW DRESSING FOR A VISIT WHICH APPARENTLY HAD LITTLE IMPACT. PUBLICITY IN LOCAL MEDIA WAS MINIMAL (IN CONTRAST TO PRC VISIT), AND IN THE RELATIVELY NEWS-LESS HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN, THE PYONGYANG PORTION OF JALUD'S TRIP WAS NOT EVEN GIVEN LEAD BILLING IN THE LOCAL NEWS BROADCASTS. EAGLETON

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